

Oyster River Cooperative School District
Regular Meeting – (REVISED 3/18/15)

March 4, 2015

Oyster River High School

6:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 by Tom Newkirk for Manifest Review.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Tom Newkirk, Al Howland, Kenny Rotner, Denise Day, Maria Barth, Sarah Farwell, Ed Charle, and Student Representative Caroline Wilson

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent James Morse, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Jay Richard, Dennis Harrington, Carrie Vaich, Carolyn Eastman and Catherine Plourde

There were twelve members of the public present.

Tom Newkirk noted that this is Ed Charle and M. Doody's last meeting with the Board and thanked them for all their service and work on the Board.

Tom Newkirk mentioned that Robert Barth, a resident of Lee, asked to speak longer during Public Comments. He is in favor of it. **Kenny Rotner moved to keep all public comments to three minutes, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 4-1-2 with Sarah Farwell voting against and Maria Barth and Tom Newkirk abstaining.**

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Robert Barth from Lee spoke about soccer player goalies with cancer that have been playing on crumb rubber fields. This is not a scientific study but people should be deeply concerned with this. He wants to know if the school has made anyone aware of these concerns.

Dean Rubine of Lee wanted to thank Ed Charle for his great service. He noted that Election Day is on Tuesday.

Robert Sullivan of Durham thinks that people may oppose the new facility as people may think there are other priorities, and that health and safety concerns are not being considered. He thinks that there is a legitimate need for this project and urged the voters to vote yes.

Kevin Gardner a professor at UNH who has spent his career studying materials in the environment. In evaluating crumb rubber in fields and feels that it is a legitimate concern. What we do know that if there are risks they are extremely low.

Karen Larson from Madbury is in favor of the fields. She is committed to sustainability and the environment.

Kathy O'Brien of Durham thanked everyone involved with this proposal for years.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve 2/11/15 and non-public minutes and 2/18/15 manifest minutes.

Revision: During Public Comment Robert Barth does not support tire crumb fill on page 2.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the February 11, 2015 minutes with the above revision, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Ed Charle and Caroline Wilson abstaining.

Kenny Rotner had requested changes to his comments on Page 2 and would like them replaced with:

Kenny was concerned how the picking up of middle school students by parents spills out into the community. The idling of cars and the decreased usage of the bus service are both against our sustainability priorities. He thought it important to understand why this is occurring.

Kenny also wanted a presentation that details nuances of the budget process. This would include an explanation of the formula that divides the budget among the three towns and how state funding is derived, how Durham's TIF influences the aforementioned formula and what Durham's considerable new development will do to tax rates in the towns.

These will be reviewed by the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Denise Day moved to approve the February 11th nonpublic and the February 18th manifests minutes, 2nd by Al Howland.

Revision: Replace "administration" to "administrator"

Motion approved 6-0-2 with Ed Charle and Caroline Wilson abstaining.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Payroll Manifest #18: \$798,468.36

Payroll Manifest: #19: \$1,132,916.83
Vendor Manifest: #18 \$823,344.77

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMENDATIONS

A. District: Superintendent Morse spoke about the roof concerns that they had with Moharimet. He is very proud of the staff at both schools and how the situation was handled.

Todd Allen from the high school boys and girls swim teams won the state championships. He mentioned that the first basketball team tournament was this evening. Both the girls and boys team have taken on End 68 hours of Hunger as their charity and have raised \$3,400.00.

Jay Richard of the Middle School is proud of the Spirit Club organized Wear Blue today in an effort to end the R word.

B. Board: Denise Day thanked Ed Charle for all his work on the Board. It is important for people to come out and vote for elections.

Al Howland thanked everyone involved with the Middle School Ski Club.

Kenny Rotner thanked Ed Charle for his work on the Board and for bringing in such a positive force. He thanked everyone involved with the field proposal. He appreciates that everyone cares about the kids in this district.

Tom Newkirk wanted to send good wishes to Griff Richards.

V. DISTRICT REPORTS

Superintendent Reports: Superintendent Morse reported that they immediately had a structural engineer on site at Moharimet when they had roof concerns. The facilities and contracted service removed snow from the roof. The structural engineer determined that the building was safe. He has also determined that the other buildings in the District are safe as well.

Business Administrator: None

Student Senate Report: Caroline Wilson reported that they have been working on open campus policy proposal. There are many upcoming fundraisers and they hope that the community comes out to support them.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Audit: The 2014 audit has been completed. Melanson Heath accountants reviewed the Independent Auditors Report with the Board and for the third year in a row have had a clean opinion. They also reviewed the Management Discussion and Analysis Report and the Statement of New Position with the Board. The District Balance sheet was also presented to the Board.

Full Day Kindergarten:

Superintendent Morse, Carrie Vaich, Dennis Harrington and the Kindergarten Committee presented the Full Day Kindergarten Update:

Charge and Tasks from the ORCSD School Board:

Charge: Review the 2008 Report on full day kindergarten and make recommendation to the School Board and establish a viable implementation date.

Tasks:

Current K Program/Rationale for full day

Challenges

Determine space availability and enrollment

Examine when full day could be implemented

Estimate startup costs and determine staffing

Benefits to students, staff, parents and community

Recommendation

Examine research about effectiveness of full-day kindergarten program

Current ORCSD Kindergarten:

Strong tradition of valuing and supporting developmentally appropriate quality education program.

Evolved to meet the changing needs of young learners and the expanding curriculum in early childhood education.

Currently ORCSD has 7 half day sessions with an average class size of 16-18 students.

Why Study Full Day Kindergarten?

Scheduling challenges too constrained in half day.

Early Intervention: social, emotional, physical and academic is critical to success throughout K-12.

Provide less transitions for children in need of full day programming.

Potential Challenges/Discussion Points:

Cost

Some parents may not want their child to participate in a full day
Impact on master schedule for lunch/recess/unified arts
NH Schools are required to offer a half day Kindergarten Program.

Determine Space Availability and Enrollment:

The LRPC projected enrollment for first grade is 130. They used the first grade projected enrollment.

Mast Way has space to accommodate four full time kindergarten classrooms. Two currently and two additional.

Moharimet has space to accommodate two full time classrooms currently and one additional in 2016-17.

Benefits to Students:

Relaxed, unhurried school day with more time for a variety of experiences.

Enhanced opportunities for authentic practice of academic and social skills.

More individual and small group instruction to meet differentiated needs, including extending or modifying the curriculum.

Enhanced opportunities to build content foundations in science, social studies and integrated arts.

Greater opportunity for all students to meet grade level learning targets across developmental domains.

Fewer transitions during the day.

Full Day Kindergarten Start Up Costs:

Add 3.5 classroom teachers: \$90,000 = \$315,000

Add 3.5 Paraprofessional \$31,200 = \$109,200

Initial Implementation: Curriculum materials \$3,000, Furniture \$6,000, Supplies \$3,500 = \$12,500

Reduce cost of Transportation mid-day buses: 12 buses = (\$80,222.40)
Total: \$356,477.60

Towns with Full Day Programs:

87 Districts with full day kindergarten for all students, fully funded by District

Committee Recommendation: Full day kindergarten is a necessary and important educational opportunity for the children of Oyster River.

The committee supports implementing universal full day kindergarten for all students in the 2016-17 school year.

The Board had a question and answer discussion with the Kindergarten Committee.

School Board Evaluation: Tom Newkirk reviewed the goals and areas to concentrate on for the future.

Tom Newkirk reviews the goals of the Board and concentrations for the future.

The Board talked about asking the questions and adding a comment.
Suggestion to add a section at the end of the agenda for them.

VII. ACTIONS:

A. Superintendent and Board Action Items

B. Board Action

Motion to approve ORHS overnight field trips: Kenny Rotner moved to approve the ORHS overnight field trip 4/11-4/12 UN Conference Plymouth State, Grade 8 Washington DC Trip on 5/14/15-5/18/15 and Grade 7/8 Jazz Band – Walt Disney World, 2nd by Maria Barth. Motion approved 7-0.

Motion to approve ORHS Sustainability Club Advisor: Kenny Rotner moved to approve Jon Bromley as the Sustainability Advisor, 2nd by Maria Barth. Motion to approve 7-0.

Motion to Approve List of Policies:

Maria Barth would like to remove Policy JIH from the list.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policies IHAH, IHAK, and IHAM for a first reading, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

The Policy Committee will work on the grammar of the IHAK Policy before the second reading comes before the Board.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve IGA for a second reading/adoption, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0.

VIII. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Clarification: meeting started with question in regards to warrant article 3 how to potentially use the email system to send information out.

Maria Barth reported that the Wellness Committee met today. March is National Nutrition Month and there will be events occurring to celebrate.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Barth of Lee continued his thoughts about the safety of tire crumb. He feels that if the warrant article passes they will be forced to use tire crumb because we cannot afford the more expensive safe alternatives such as TPE. He noted that knowing the Boards only option may be to put tire crumb in if Warrant Article 3 passes, he will vote against it.

X. CLOSING ACTIONS

Future Meeting Dates: March 18th and April 1st Regular Meetings

Maria Barth discussed paragraph one on the back of the agenda which notes that public comment section of the agenda should not exceed three minutes unless extended by the Chair. Since the Board moved to not have any public comment exceed three minutes earlier in tonight's meeting, this paragraph needs to be revised.

XI. NON PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (a)

Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss the Superintendent evaluation/contract 2nd by Denise Day. Upon roll call vote the motion approved 7-0.

At 10:27 PM, Kenny Rotner made a motion to return to public session, and the motion was seconded by Denise Day. The motion passed 7-0.

Maria Barth made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Sarah Farwell. The motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary